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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week Ending June 2, 1944

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cherries - The California cherry crop suffered light losses this week because of rains over the main cherry producing sections of Sacramento, Stockton and San Jose. At present, it is too early to determine the extent of the damage. It is expected however, that losses may be as much as 10 percent to the remainder of the earlier varieties. Reports to date indicate that there will be little or no damage to the later varieties. However, the total extent of the damage will depend upon whether the weather clears or continues wet.

Potatoes - The new potato deal in the Western Region is continuing strong and although the market appears a shade lower the fob price is still pressing the ceiling and the market is steady. With Wasco and Shafter in Kern County reaching a peak daily shipment of over 700 cars that county has now moved a total of 8945 cars for the season. The daily average for this week was 541 cars.

The South Carolina and Alabama new potato fob prices are holding at ceiling and indications are that the season is about over although the weather has somewhat retarded the final harvesting.

Madera County, California, reports a 2500 acre crop on which harvesting will start about June 5th. It is expected the peak of shipments for that crop will be reached by June 20th. And the season may extend beyond the middle of July.

Cucumbers - Ceiling prices on cucumbers, announced by OPA as effective June 2, are \$3.15 per bushel (48 lbs.) for the first half of June, and \$2.10 for the second half of June at the basing point. The basing point for sections west of Chicago is Chila Vista, California.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - A note of interest to growers, and millers alike, is the Defence Supply Corporation recently announced new rates of payment on wheat ground for flour. The new rate on hard wheat ground in June, outside the Pacific Coast area, is 9 cents per bushel compared to 25 cents in May. The payment on soft wheat is 18 cents for June compared to 2 cents in May. Payments on Durum wheat and all wheat ground in the Pacific Coast area were not changed.

Midwestern markets, as the week advanced, reflected a lessened demand for the millfeeds. This was in contrast to the Pacific Coast and Western Region markets where the demand remained strong.

The Northwest reports continued progress on the growth of winter wheat and that it is well headed in the earlier areas of Oregon; that the grain crops all need rain, but will not be greatly injured if rain does come soon.

Barley - Barley along with oats and grain sorghums have continued to be in strong demand in midwestern markets with prices still pushing the ceiling levels and with a continued pull on California barley.

Rice - Rice growers will be interested in the recent OPA announcement of Amendment No. 1 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 518 - Rough Rice - effective May 27, 1944. This amendment increases the maximum price, of early prolific varieties paid to farmers, from \$5.30 to \$5.60 per barrel in bulk, fob country shipping points, but does not increase the processors ceiling prices.

#### DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Butter - Creamery butter production has continued to gain and, for the week ending May 25th production was up 9 percent over that for the preceeding week and but 6 percent under the corresponding week for last year. On the Pacific Coast, production was reported as being 4 percent above last week and but 1 percent under the same week a year ago. Although set-aside butter has taken most of the increase, civilian demand has not exceeded the "free" supplies.

Ice Cream - On May 29th WFA announced Amendment No. 3 to WFO No. 8. The provisions of this amendment gives ice cream manufacturers permission to increase their quota percentage to 85 percent in June and to 75 percent through July. The maximum milk solids content was raised from 22 to 24 percent during July and, will revert to 22 percent in August.

Eggs - Terminal markets in the Western Region are continuing to report "insufficient egg cases available and storage facilities are short" for the egg supplies now being received. Egg sales, on the better grades, have somewhat strengthened during the past week. Verification of previous announcement the WFA buying price for Procurement I unprocessed eggs is 36 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents at any point in the United States. Home storage of eggs is still a "good bet".

Live Poultry - Receipts of live poultry continue liberal with a weaker demand for roosters and other older fowl while broilers and fryers generally remained in good demand with prices held at ceiling.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Hogs - This week, to date, the twelve principal livestock markets have received 422,400 head of hogs. This number is 12 percent less than the number received at those markets last week and 45 percent more than received for the same period last year. In addition the pressure to market has continued strong at most of these markets.

Western Region hog markets reported slower sales this week but support hogs remained at support prices. On the Pacific Coast Good to Choice support hogs during the week reached a top of \$14.85 in the south and \$13.85 in the north.

Cattle - Receipts of cattle at the twelve principal markets, this last week, have totaled 143,600 head which is 6 percent over the number received during the corresponding period last year and, 16 percent less than receipts for the previous week. This last is in contrast to the difference between the two weeks ending May 26th and May 19th when the later week finished with  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent greater receipts than the week earlier.

Lambs - Records indicate that 187,715 head of lambs have been moved out of the state of California to date, this season, compared with 157,352 head in 1943 for the same period. It is expected that the marketing of lambs from that state will likely continue for another ninety days to complete the season.